

Objective: to enable every believer to live the supernatural lifestyle that God intended.

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NLBC a.m.

Faith – The Only Real Way to Live – Pt. 8

Rom. 1:17; Acts 27:25;

Introduction

Faith—the vital truth that enables us to live pleasing God and experiencing His life and power in the circumstances we face. Whatever disappointments and losses you have had, whatever circumstances you face today, there is a vital component of faith that you must grasp and embrace. Yesterday must **not** be allowed to dictate today. Phillip. 3:14, 15.

How Important Is Faith?

Two hundred fifty-four times in the New Testament, the word, “faith,” is used. Two hundred fifty-six times the New Testament refers to “believing,” the dynamic operational dimension of faith. Over and over throughout the Gospels, Jesus spoke of the importance of faith. He even rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. The story of the unfolding Church in the Book of Acts mentions the power of faith fifteen times. In the first chapter of every letter that Paul wrote, the Holy Spirit caused him to mention faith – right at the very beginning. Those verses make clear: the only lifestyle we are allowed that pleases God is: the lifestyle of faith...that is, believing and receiving God’s grace and power for every circumstance we face.

Before you had faith, you had nothing....you lived in darkness with no way out, you were as vulnerable and weak as you could possibly be, your health was subject to change any moment with some attack, you had no protection, you had no remedy, your work life was subject to all the oppressions of the Egyptian system, you were cheated, robbed and betrayed and had no remedy, you were weak in yourself and doubted your future, your worth, other people’s love for you, and

your own ability to succeed. When trouble came you only had the world's resources to deal with it...if the world had no lasting solution...you simply suffered through it or died. Trouble, tragedy and disaster could eat it way into your inner man and all you could do was cry, complain, hurt, blame and be angry...even if you only did it inside yourself. You watched the ones you loved, suffer as well...with only human words to comfort them...you had no power to change their mourning into dancing. You were powerless, hopeless, weak, defiled beyond cleansing, and sentenced to die while living. Life was trying to make crumbs into substance and make any positive emotion last longer than a few seconds.

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When Faith Came

When "faith" came, as the Bible says, "faith comes..." (Rom. 10:17) you began to **live** for the first time. You connected with God!

When FAITH came by hearing God speak...it all changed! Well, at least potentially...when God speaks...and faith comes...we live in a different world...we change address...we step out of something that was never meant to be our lot and into what is rightfully ours....

The Spirit of Faith - 2 Cor. 4:13.

Everything we have that is good, comes from God Himself. God is Spirit (John 4:24) and what He gives to us, comes first, in the invisible realm of the Spirit. Faith is also referred to as a "fruit of the Spirit" in Gal. 5. We understand that "faith" is vitally connected to the Holy Spirit – it is then, our "spirit-life," not our soul-life that releases the 'voice of faith' into our minds and lives. We must '**hear** the voice' in order for faith to come and the power of that coming to be revealed. Lots of other voices come: the voice of:

- Logic, reason and good old common sense
- Emotion, passion, feelings, desperation, panic, fear
- Science, education
- This world's system, opinions of others, Google, etc
- Our history or our past experience, other's negative experiences

- Pain, symptoms, worry
- The Devil (Acts 5:3)

The first step we take in ‘hearing the voice of faith’ is the **aggressive** rejection of the other voices! Anything that causes me to doubt or live apart from the life of faith is my *enemy*. It will not be a person, per se, but the ‘opposer of my success!’ Titus 2:12. I must say **“No!”** to:

- The voice of pain
- The voice of symptoms
- The news of bad things

****If I fail to say, “NO!” to what I should say, “No” to, I begin to accommodate, accept, allow, permit, and say “OK” to whatever has begun to invade my life and the lives of others. I must be vocal and aggressive about this!** Rom. 4:19, 20; 2 Cor. 4:18.

The Holy Spirit Speaks - John 10:3,4; John 5:25; *Heb. 3:7*; Rev. 3:20

The ‘voice of faith’ is the voice of victory for every situation that we face. Until and unless, we hear His voice, we muddle on...

Gal.3:2, 5

1 Tim. 1:18, 19 2011 version

God’s voice is the greatest and most powerful voice in your life. Cultivating the value of hearing his voice is only by making the ‘hearing of it’ a top **priority**. God speaks, but if His voice is measured alongside all the other voices that you hear, you will not mix it with faith and realise the miracles inherent in it.

Faith is a confidence and *a sense of certainty that an invisible spiritual transaction is taking place* because God has spoken. 2 Cor. 4:13. Faith speaks with certainty...unlike the rest of life....

The Components of Faith

The new lifestyle of faith or the ‘faith-lifestyle’ that we embrace when we receive Christ as our Saviour, is so new and different than the life we had before. It is a totally different way of living. We have to get educated into it and embrace it. Otherwise, we instinctively go back

to living the way we used to live and experiencing all of the results of the 'ways of man.'

1. Faith Thinks – If you are to be a 'faith person,' you must think the thoughts of God—the thoughts of God about every need or situation. Three sources of thought—self, God, Satan. Human thoughts or ideas are not what enable you to succeed in life. Isa. 55:8, 9. The primary source of God-thoughts is the Word of God. i.e. Matt. 17:20. The Christian life embraces a *new mentality*. You are to develop and embrace a 'nothing-is-impossible-with-me mentality.' You cannot live the 'new life in Christ,' with the old mentality. The new mentality of the new life we have in Christ is cultivated by **meditation**. Josh 1:8 reveals that we must 'meditate' on what is written in order to 'go there.' Having a memory bank of Scripture is not sufficient. Meditating on His Word is meditating on Him, through His written words. What happens when you quiet yourself, and take the time to read over and over and pause to listen? The Holy Spirit has opportunity to 'break into the inner conversation' and speak. He speaks most often '*from His Word.*' His thoughts come into your mind and faith comes. The Holy Spirit *breathes or personalises to you specifically* something you read. In effect, you are 'hearing His voice.'

2. Faith Hears – Faith *hears* the 'proceeding word.' Matt. 4:4; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:3,5. Faith isn't and then it shows up. It 'shows up' by *hearing*. The voice of God, by the Holy Spirit, brings the unique **certainty** of faith. By hearing His voice on the inside, you believe. It is a fruit of the Spirit's work in our inner man—just as it was in our salvation. Eph. 2:8. This inner faith-producing work can come devotionally. In the quietness of your devotional seclusion, you can 'hear' His voice declaring a 'reality' and you automatically have the inner conviction (full assurance) that you what you have heard, **is...a 'done deal.'** It can come in any context where you are **listening to hear...His voice.** In a church service, in a conversation with another

believer, from a cd, from some web, radio, or tv transmission. This faith-producing certainty can occur in your heart, by hearing the Spirit's voice. *The atmosphere of the Spirit is faith and the atmosphere of faith is the Spirit.* They are inseparable...when the Spirit comes dynamically, He brings the sense that God Almighty is present to be Himself in that context.

3. Faith Sees - Faith sees...the finished product, the completed work, what is...God sees something different than what we see, often times. In order to have faith's reward (Heb. 11:6), we must see what He sees. He saw Gideon as a mighty warrior and He called Him that. Gideon, hiding out at that time, did not inwardly embrace that God-seen reality. When He accepted (inwardly embraced), what God saw, he became what God saw. The promises of God are the realities that we are meant to see. You have an inner capacity to formulate pictures of realities. If someone said, "fried chicken," you can instantly make a picture of fried chicken, browned, steaming, and filling the air with its beckoning aroma. If you "meditated" on that picture continually, you may find yourself headed for KFC.

In the Old Testament story of faith, God told Israel to "see what the land is like." Num. 13:18. They sent out spies to 'spy out the land' of Promise. We are to 'spy out the "land of promises," -- the 'land of the great and precious promises' in the Word of God. 2 Pet. 1:3,4. What is behind this principle of faith? The Satan-inspired world system utilises this inner, image-producing principle by putting in front of your literal eyes and stirring your image-making imagination, knowing that your eyes will draw you to the experiential reality of what you see. In the New Testament we understand this principle—'...beholding Him, we become like Him.' 2 Cor. 3:18 ESV. Heb. 11:27; 2 Cor. 4:18; James 1:23-25.

When you meditate in the promises of God, specific to your situation, you begin to *see* what is *in* the promise...a picture of increase, instead of lack, a picture of yourself well, instead of seeing yourself sick, a picture of a situation *different*, from the one you are experiencing. If you are always looking at the natural, you will not move into the supernatural. If you are always looking at Google, you will miss God and miss out on the treasures of grace. What you are “looking at” internally, is also, what you will talk about.

4. Faith Speaks – Faith speaks what has been *received* as done! If you are to live as a faith person, you will learn to speak differently! 2 Cor. 4:13. You will learn to speak like God speaks—Rom. 4:17 says, God “calls those things that are not, as though they were.” He required Jesus to speak to a dead man (Lazarus) as though he could hear and respond. Mark 11:24 says of believing believers that if you, “believe you **have received it**,...it will be yours.” Do you see yourself ‘with it’ yet? In the faith-world, *the asking and the receiving*, are **at the same time**. It is ‘with you’ when you “**received**” (by God’s definition of “received”) it. Manifestation of what you have already received takes place, if you embrace the truth that you **have received**, whatever you asked. Num. 33:53 says we are to ‘take possession’ of what we **have been given**. 1 John 5:14, 15.

1 Sam. 17:45-47

Heb. 11:3

5. Faith Acts -- James 2:17-24. When you hear God’s voice, faith comes...or the power to receive what He is saying simply by choosing to believe God is speaking to you. Part of that believing or ‘mixing with faith,’ is *acting* on what you heard or acting as if you had heard. Presumption is acting without having heard. Heb. 11:29. Faith is expressed through **acts**, having heard from the Lord. This is the reason you can rejoice **before**, your physical eyes see the manifestation of something. You rejoice in the reality that God has spoken and because

He has spoken, that is your ‘new reality.’ You order your life around the fact that He **has spoken**. You go on introducing yourself as ‘Abraham’ (meaning ‘father of many nations’), rather than waiting till the first child is born.

In the natural world we do this often. Someone tells us they will meet us at Starbucks at a certain day and time. We orient our lives to make that appointment, believing this will happen. We **do** all those things necessary to keep up our end of the agreement, believing it is a ‘done deal’—that it will truly occur.

Faith is given to accomplish in the midst of contradiction. *Antilogian*, the Greek word for the English word, ‘contradiction,’ means “against logic.”

A person of faith, devises a **strategy of faith** to counteract every work of Satan. That **strategy of faith** is based on the boundaries of the written Word of God and the voice of the Spirit’s input in that given situation. Thus, listening all the time to His voice is essential. One of the great truths connected to this ‘hearing and acting’ is the **availability of God** as He is the ‘*ever-present*’ One. Ps. 46:1.

1 Sam. 17:48

Living As A ‘Faith-Person’ – The Mentality and Lifestyle of Faith

As the faith-person God has made me to be, I affirm and declare the following truths of my faith-life that are the foundations upon which my life is built and the lifestyle practices that I embrace.

1. I host, carry and have in the possession of my person the Presence of God and I host, carry and have in the

possession of my person, the Blessing given to all the spiritual descendants of Abraham. Gal. 3:9,29.

2. I live every day in the favour, health and prosperity of the Blessing given to all of the spiritual descendants of Abraham. Gal. 3:29; 2 Pet. 1:3.
3. I speak words that are full of spirit and life, creating new things and changing circumstances. John 6:63; Isa. 44:26; 2 Cor. 4:13.
4. I live in the Kingdom, in the Holy Spirit, with that same spirit flowing out of me, through words and acts, making a better world. Rom. 14:17; John 7:38-39.
5. I possess the Kingdom of the Spirit within me which releases the dominion of the King into the earth. Lk. 17:21; Ecc. 3:6 NKJV.
6. I reign in this life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 5:17; Matt. 17:20.
7. I think the thoughts of God about everything in life. Matt. 4:4.
8. I access all the benefits of grace (everything provided) by my amazing and powerful faith. Rom. 5:2; 2 Pet. 1:3.

9. I speak faith-words that release the manifestation of grace (everything provided) in any and all situations. Mk. 11:22,23.
10. I am a powerful and power-filled person, not a victim of circumstances. Luke 24:45; Acts 1:8; Eph. 6:10.
11. I live and act, **knowing** nothing will harm me. Luke 10:19.
12. I exercise authority over every work of Satan. Luke 10:19.
13. I destroy the works of darkness. 1 John 3:8.
14. I exercise my faith by calling those things that are not as though they are...a faith prescription for supernatural change, health, and increase. Rom. 4:17; John 11:43, 44. I speak that I am healed, healthy, strong, prosperous, victorious, knowing, discerning, wisely choosing and advancing!
15. I am a “more-than-enough” person! 2 Cor. 9:8-11.
16. I live in the Sabbath overflow of blessing! Ex. 16:29.
17. I am seated at the ‘throne of grace’ and speak from that ‘throne of grace’ into earth’s situations—favour flows

into people and situations through my words! Eph. 2:6;
Heb. 4:16.

18. I have an assignment that involves doing the 'assigned list of miracles.' Ex. 4:21; Matt. 10:8, 9.

19. I live off the abundance that comes from my generous giving in faith. 2 Cor. 9:6; Luke 6:38.